

State Commission

UServeUtah, the Utah Commission on Service & Volunteerism, manages 12 AmeriCorps State programs with 1,459 AmeriCorps members serving across the state addressing critical needs in the areas of education, health, environment, economic opportunity, disaster and capacity building. In the 2014-2015 program year, more than 11,000 students were tutored and mentored with 90 percent showing improved academic performance as a result of AmeriCorps program efforts. In addition, more than 15,000 individuals received access to health care resources through service provided by AmeriCorps members. Along with AmeriCorps program outreach, oversight, training and technical assistance, UServeUtah serves as the state's central coordinating body for service and volunteerism, and is responsible for developing, implementing, and sustaining a vision and culture of civic engagement and national and community service within the state. Some of UServeUtah's other programming responsibilities include volunteer management training, disaster service leadership, the Lt. Governor's Volunteer Recognition Awards, and the state's volunteer connecting website.

AmeriCorps State

Utah Playworks AmeriCorps has 13 AmeriCorps members who serve at 12 low-income, high-need elementary schools in Salt Lake County. AmeriCorps members use the power of safe, fun, and healthy play at school and create a place for every child on the playground to be included and active, and build social and emotional skills. Last year, Playworks AmeriCorps members helped more than 5,000 students have a richer learning experience; 70 percent of these children became more academically engaged. The students had an increased sense of belonging among their peers and a better connection with adults. Teachers in these schools report that students gained an average of 21 hours of instruction time over the course of the year as a result of fewer behavioral disruptions. That is a \$55,962 return on investment per school. Playworks AmeriCorps members are making an impact in Utah by stopping chaos at recess, helping children shift behaviors, and creating an environment in which every child can thrive, in the classroom and out.

The Utah Conservation Corps is a statewide AmeriCorps program that partners with federal, state, local, and nonprofit agencies to protect, restore, and enhance our environment. Its 175 AmeriCorps members, and the more than 5,000 community volunteers they recruited last year, complete environmental stewardship projects throughout the state. Last year alone, AmeriCorps members improved more than 150 miles of trails and rivers and nearly 4,300 acres of parks and public land. The members taught more than 50,000 students about energy efficiency and environmentally-conscious behavior. Studies show that the AmeriCorps members gain the skills to be engaged and knowledgeable conservation leaders of tomorrow while they cost-effectively address critical unmet environmental stewardship needs today.

AmeriCorps National

The American Conservation Experience, operating out of St. George, enrolled 49 AmeriCorps members who served on environmental conservation projects in 2015. AmeriCorps members built and maintained trails, improved waterways, and removed invasive species. Over the course of the past year, members surveyed and maintained 58.4 miles of waterway, improved or restored 103 acres of land, and built or maintained 131 miles of trail.

Youth Volunteer Corps has two AmeriCorps members who serve Cedar City and Ogden. Last year in Cedar City, the program engaged 47 youth, including 24 disadvantaged youth, in 3,590 hours of service. The youth volunteers participated in 160 projects for 51 local agencies, including Canyon Creek Women's Center, Bread of Life Soup Kitchen, and Cedar City Community Garden. The program launched in Ogden in July 2015 with similar goals to engage youth in service.

AmeriCorps VISTA

Maliheh Free Clinic AmeriCorps VISTA member Jeff Collins successfully applied for and received malpractice coverage for the free clinic through the Federal Torts Claims Act. This will provide savings of well over \$100,000 per year as the clinic does not have to purchase malpractice insurance for more than 50 volunteer medical providers. Jeff developed a quality assurance plan and a system for credentialing and privileging volunteers to meet the requirements to apply for malpractice coverage for the clinic's volunteer medical providers. Once established, Jeff transferred responsibility for the quality assurance plan and the credentialing program to the clinic's Medical Advisory Committee and staff members. Obtaining free coverage has been a long time goal of the clinic since the high cost of malpractice insurance is unaffordable for nonprofit clinics and lack of malpractice coverage is the chief barrier to recruiting volunteer medical providers. AmeriCorps VISTA member Pati Comes helped bring in more than \$100,000 in new revenue in 2015. This has allowed the clinic to see hundreds of new patients and they no longer have a waiting list. In 2014, the clinic had a four month waiting list for new patients.

Two AmeriCorps VISTA members serving at People Helping People as fundraising coordinators helped generate a substantial amount of resources during their year of service to expand the reach of the organization into new areas of the state of Utah. People Helping People is a nonprofit that serves women and children living in areas throughout the Wasatch Front. By offering job training and development programs, the organization helps women and their families move out of poverty. The AmeriCorps VISTA members created a tracking system for grant writing research and submissions. They also wrote more than 60 letters of intent and submitted more than 70 grant proposals to grow the program to serve more individuals. The members raised more than \$550,000 in grant funds and \$12,000 in in-kind donations during their year of service.

AmeriCorps NCCC

The Road Home is a private nonprofit social service agency that assists individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Salt Lake County and along the Wasatch Front. Their mission is to help people step out of homelessness and back into the community. According to Utah's Homeless Point-In-Time Count, an estimated 13,621 people in Utah experienced homelessness in 2014. Increasingly, the people experiencing homelessness are families with children. An AmeriCorps NCCC team was requested to join in The Road Home's poverty alleviation efforts. Over the course of their round, the team checked guests into their rooms each night and sorted through 2,310 pounds of food items and 7,322 pounds of clothing items that had been donated to the shelter's warehouse. The team also conducted 150 surveys with residents of the shelter, which were geared towards helping the city improve and expand future services. All of these actions aimed to have residents return to the shelter on a nightly basis and utilize the services that the shelter provided. This, in turn, aids in Salt Lake City's mission to help the homeless find homes and return to the workforce and their communities.

Habitat for Humanity of Summit & Wasatch Counties provides housing and comprehensive financial and life-skill education to low-income families in Utah. Founded in 1995, the organization seeks to build, renovate, and preserve homes for working families in need through partnership with volunteers in its communities. During the spring of 2015, the service of an AmeriCorps NCCC team was requested to support building efforts, supply warehouse services, and conduct community outreach. The team served in the Habitat for Humanity ReStore for one week of their round, helping customers, painting the ReStore wall, and planting flowers in eight planters that AmeriCorps NCCC members placed outside of the ReStore. The team also removed dead wood from a total of 5.6 acres of two homeowners' properties to help prevent the spread of any future fires, and restored hiking trail behind one of the properties. As a result of the service that AmeriCorps NCCC members performed, the community of Park City has become more aware of Habitat for Humanity, the organization's goals, and of energy-saving programs for Summit and Wasatch counties.

Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

Foster Grandparent Programs across the state of Utah are focused on helping at-risk students achieve academic success. Test scores consistently show an achievement gap between students who are low-income, minorities, and other students. According to DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) research, 80 percent of children who reach benchmark will remain on benchmark for the remainder of their schooling. The Foster Grandparent Program of Northern Utah pioneered working with local school districts to track DIBELS test scores for students tutored by Foster Grandparents. They did so by working hand in hand with seven school districts to implement a method to track the pre- and post- DIBELS scores of each child tutored by a Foster Grandparent. The superintendents of the three largest school districts select district administrators to serve on the advisory council. These individuals have been key in formulating the data collection process. In 2015, 89 percent, or 1,073 children tutored showed improvement in their academic scores by the end of the year and 40 percent of the students who received this one-on-one tutoring reached benchmark.

Senior Corps RSVP

Ninety RSVP volunteers with Salt Lake County Aging and Adult Services serve with the Meals on Wheels program. In 2014 these volunteers delivered more than 11,000 meals to 200 seniors, providing the frail and homebound elderly with nutrition and socialization. For many, the RSVP volunteer is the only person that the homebound senior sees on a daily basis, increasing their independence and sense of social connectedness. Some of the Salt Lake County RSVP volunteers are also meal delivery team leaders. In addition to delivering meals they recruit, schedule and provide training for other volunteers on their delivery team. RSVP volunteers also serve as backup volunteers. To ensure that all meal recipients get their meal every day there is a great need for reliable backup volunteers. There is a team of RSVP backup volunteers that are fast responders and willing to deliver, even when called at the last minute. The Salt Lake County Meals on Wheels Program does not currently have a waiting list and are able to serve people in need. This is in part due to the dedication and efforts of the RSVP volunteers that play a variety of volunteer roles to support the Meals on Wheels program.

Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

Jeannette, a former Senior Companion with the Weber Human Services program, now benefits from having a Senior Companion herself. With the assistance of her Senior Companion, Jeannette is able to volunteer to deliver meals with Meals on Wheels. Jeannette ended her service as a Senior Companion due to progression of her Alzheimer's disease. She missed being in the community and the ability to serve others. With the opportunity to volunteer with Meals on Wheels with her Senior Companion she said, "This has given me my life back. I feel like I'm contributing to the community again." There is a growing trend in Utah that former Senior Companions who are no longer able to serve now receive the benefits of being visited by a Senior Companion. Former Senior Companions with Salt Lake County Aging and Adult Services, Weber Human Services, and others have been able to benefit as a Senior Companion client after years of service.

Social Innovation Fund

The Social Innovation Fund (SIF) transforms lives by using evidence to find what works and make it work for more people. The SIF Classic and SIF Pay for Success programs harness the expertise of grant-making intermediaries to identify, evaluate and expand effective nonprofits serving low-income communities across America. SIF programs throughout the state focus on areas such as affordable and healthy housing, as well as recidivism reduction and more. The Social Innovation Fund is investing \$497,000 in expanding the impact of seven nonprofits in Utah.

Volunteer Generation Fund

UServeUtah uses Volunteer Generation Fund grant support to establish a strong infrastructure to support volunteers in Utah and functions as a consultant and training resource to build and cultivate organizational capacity and increase volunteer utilization. UServeUtah also actively promotes volunteerism and is committed to creating ways for Utahns to identify and engage in quality volunteer and service opportunities. A primary aim is to help organizations successfully use service and volunteerism as a strategy to fulfill their mission as well as increasing the number of highly skilled and long-term volunteers serving in Utah. UServeUtah accomplishes this by providing statewide trainings that ensure organizations are prepared to use volunteers effectively; supporting businesses in creating employee volunteer programs throughout the state; and helping local municipalities recognize and use volunteers as an effective means of addressing community needs. In 2015, more than 200 organizations received training related to volunteer management with 95 percent of them reporting that this training helped expand and improve capacity within their organization to use volunteers to address critical needs.